



## Improvements to East Yosemite Valley Campgrounds

### What is this project about and what will be some of the main changes?

As a result of the *East Yosemite Valley Campground Improvements Project Environmental Assessment* (EA), completed in 2004, improvements are scheduled to be made in the area of Upper Pines Campground that will increase the number of campsites available in the eastern portion of Yosemite Valley. The number of campsites will increase from 475 to 564, which is within the 638 interim limit established in the *Merced Wild and Scenic River Revised Comprehensive Management Plan*. This project is the first phase of implementation of the redesign and reconfiguration of the valley campgrounds as called for in the selected alternative of the *Yosemite Valley Plan*. Some of the planned improvements and project elements include:

- ❖ Increasing the number of campsites currently in Yosemite Valley, by adding 30 new Recreational Vehicle (RV) sites and 59 new walk-in sites. Both areas will have new restroom facilities and site furnishings that will include bear-proof food lockers, picnic tables, and fire rings. The new campground layout provides separation between various types of camping, such as RVs and tents.
- ❖ The 30-site RV Loop will be constructed at the entrance to Upper Pines Campground. The RV sites will have electrical hook-ups to help alleviate generator noise from RVs.
- ❖ The 59 walk-in sites will be constructed on the eastern side of Upper Pines Campground. The walk-in sites will have centralized parking with pathways leading to the individual sites.
- ❖ Helping to redesign and relocate flood damaged campsites out of highly valued resource areas, such as those near sensitive river and riparian habitats. The new campsites will also be designed to improve the visitor experience by better separating sites using natural features, allowing for more privacy.

Once the entire project called for in the environmental assessment is fully implemented, camping orientation, circulation, congestion, and parking will be improved. Former campground areas will be restored to preserve and protect natural ecosystems.

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### What are some of the operational changes that will occur in the campgrounds?

No other utilities besides electricity will be available, such as water and sewer. However, there is a RV water and dump station nearby in Upper Pines Campground to accommodate these needs.

The new campsites will be managed as existing campsites in Yosemite Valley are today. Fee structure and cost per night per campsite is still to be determined and will be based on comparability of surrounding area campgrounds with similar amenities and features.

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## What are the next steps?

Implementation and construction of this project is scheduled to begin in summer/fall 2006 with completion expected by fall 2007.

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## Public Participation

The *East Yosemite Valley Campground Improvements Project Environmental Assessment* (EA) closed for public comment on October 11, 2003. The environmental assessment evaluated the environmental consequences associated with the project and provided information to the project planning team to allow the development of a plan that minimized or mitigated potential impacts to the environment. Design options were considered during the decision-making process.

On February 19, 2004, a Finding of No Significant Impact was signed by the Director of the Pacific West Region of the National Park Service, thus completing the planning process.

Although, planning for this project is complete, here are some ways to stay involved in other park projects and planning efforts:

- Add your name to the park's planning mailing list (to address/fax/email below) and receive planning-related notices. You can also submit your email address to receive Yosemite National Park's periodic electronic newsletter.
- Attend a National Park Service Open House in Yosemite Valley to talk with project specialists and obtain more information about ongoing and future park projects.
- View the *East Yosemite Valley Campground Improvements Environmental Assessment* online at [www.nps.gov/yose/planning/curry/](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planning/curry/)
- Mail: Superintendent  
Attn: *Planning Mailing List*  
P.O. Box 577  
Yosemite, CA 95389
- Fax: 209/379- 1294
- Email: Yose\_Planning@nps.gov

The status of this and other Yosemite National Park improvement projects will be periodically updated on the park's planning web site: [www.nps.gov/yose/planning](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planning)